



Branded? Sleeve tattoos prohibit Marines from recruiting, MSG

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Temporary lodging construction to conclude this month

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Friday: Mostly sunny
High: 100 Low: 74
Saturday: Sunny
High: 102 Low: 75
Sunday: Partly cloudy
High: 103 Low: 77

Serving Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona

DESERT WARRIOR

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Visiting Marines start 60th WTI Monday

Cpl. Michael R. Whitnel
Desert Warrior Staff

More than 800 Marines from around the Corps descended on Yuma to begin the Weapons and Tactics Instructors course here Monday.

This year, about 200 fewer WTI students and supporting Marines are attending the biannual, six-week instructor training due to deployments elsewhere.

Visiting pilots, weapons systems operators, combat ground and support service Marines will attend the course until Oct. 26.

For the first two and a half weeks, students attend lectures and classes.

The second phase, known as the flight phase, begins Sept. 25. It focuses on flight and practical application of an individual's job.

Upon graduation, students will return to their units and instruct their Marines on the warfare skills mastered while attending WTI, said Lt. Col. David Schlichting, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 executive officer.

This WTI will include the course's first live-fire the high-mobility artillery rocket system on the Barry M. Goldwater Range, said Schlichting.

Unlike most other courses in the Marine Corps, there's no written or traditional proctored final exam. Instead, units participate in a weeklong final exercise, during which they plan and perform a combined-arms operation within the city limits of Yuma and Brawley, Calif., said Maj. Ryan Shadle, a CH-46 instructor.

WTI is not just for pilots. The course includes Marines in intelligence, aviation ground support and flight engineer weapons and tactics fields, said Schlichting.

The WTI curriculum is constantly updated from lessons learned during current Marine Corps operations around the world, said Shadle.

MAWTS-1 also keeps in contact with other services and foreign services, which keeps the WTI training in line with the realities of joint operations, said Schlichting.

MAWTS-1 has been conducting two WTI courses per year since its creation in 1978, making this the 60th course held.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Buda, station Search and Rescue corpsmen, demonstrates a casualty rescue here Friday. SAR Marines and sailors searched for Evan Tanner, a former Ultimate Fighting Championship champion who went hiking in southeast California, beginning Saturday. SAR Marines found the body midday on Monday.

Yuma SAR Marines find body of UFC champion

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

Station Search and Rescue found the body of a former Ultimate Fighting Championship middleweight champion in southeast California at approximately 12:30 p.m. Monday.

Evan Tanner, 37, was discovered in the Palo Verde Mountain range near Clapp Spring after authorities searched the area for several days.

Station SAR received the call at noon on Saturday and launched at 1 p.m., searching along with De Anza Rescue, an all-volunteer search group for Imperial County Sheriff's Office, until about 7 p.m., said Capt. Ben Keck, SAR pilot for the search.

According to Tanner's blog, the mixed-martial artist was going hiking for spiritual purposes and to test his limits.

Tanner arrived at his campsite on Sept. 3 and set out to Clapp Spring, about five miles away, the next morning, based on the GPS retrieved from his body, said Jeff Green, De Anza Rescue commander.

"Tanner had sent a friend a phone text message on Thursday afternoon stating that he was at Clapp Spring and had run out of water," said Green. "Tanner told his friend he would travel back to his camp at night, when it's the coldest, and to contact authorities if he wasn't heard from by 8 a.m. Friday."

The campsite was found abandoned, with

[see UFC page 3](#)

Corps cleared for early start on official CFTs

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Desert Warrior Staff

Units may begin official testing of the new combat fitness test immediately, instead of waiting until Oct. 1, the Marine Corps announced Monday.

Additionally, units must immediately evaluate any Marines currently assigned to the Body Composition Program, and reset any still out of standards back to Day One, according to implementation guidance in Marine Administrative Message 501/08.

The move allows all Marines to get a jump start on the deadline to complete an initial CFT by Dec. 31.

The Marine Corps recently rewrote its orders on body composition, military appearance and its semiannual physical fitness and combat fitness tests.

Marines currently on their first BCP assignment who are back within the Corps' height and weight standards must still remain in the program until the mandatory six-month term is over. Those on second or subsequent assignment who now meet standards may be removed from the program immediately.

Marines currently being processed for administrative separation due to BCP failure won't catch any breaks, even if they now fall within standards, according to Monday's message. Commands will continue separation procedures for those individuals.

The message also stressed that administrative and disciplinary measures related to previous assignments to the BCP, such as adverse fitness reports, remain valid.

Reservists must complete their initial CFT prior to Dec. 31, 2009.

[see CFT page 8](#)

Yuma fatality free for third summer in a row

Lance Cpl. M. Daniel Sanchez
Desert Warrior Staff

The air station ended its 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign Sept. 1 fatality free for the third year in a row, adding to the Corps' first Labor Day weekend in five years with no off-duty fatalities.

The campaign, focuses on helping Marines and sailors prevent and manage the risks that can cause off-duty mishaps and fatalities throughout the summer months, specifically Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend due to their high fatality rates.

The biggest factors in Yuma staying fatality free this summer were the station's aggressive safety campaign, hitting on the importance of safety early in the year, and leaders taking responsibilities for its Marines, said Ross Chapa, station safety specialist.

The Extreme Health and Safety Fair and mock crash events held in May showed Marines the importance of proper safety practices, specifically focusing on off-duty recreation safety like wearing proper protective equipment, said Chapa. In addition to these, Marines received several other briefs throughout the year about responsible alcohol use, proper motorcycle driving and maintenance and simply looking out for each other.

The Marines here, especially

the noncommissioned officers, took hold of the commandant's new empowerment program and used it to educate and prepare their Marines to make good safety decisions outside of the workplace, said Gunnery Sgt. David Kurz, station ground safety manager.

Kurz was referring to a White Letter published April 21, in which Gen. James Conway called on NCOs to take charge of the safety of their Marines by actively exercising full authority and accountability over their subordinates to halt the record-breaking number of Marines who have died in private motor vehicle crashes, specifically those involving motorcycles, this year.

NCOs were even given authority to deny leave and liberty privileges for Marines who are deemed to be a safety risk.

Marines can receive safety briefs all day long, but it is the Marine with them on liberty who speaks up that has the biggest impact on whether they return home safe or not, said Phil Bender, station traffic and off-duty safety program manager.

Although the station did not lose any lives this year, the Marine Corps, as a whole, lost a total of 20 Marines during this year's safety campaign, according to the Naval Safety Center.

However, this was the lowest number of summer holiday fatalities throughout the Corps

[see SUMMER page 4](#)

8,000 U.S. troops homeward from Iraq in coming months

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR, D.C. – The United States will continue to reduce its troop strength in Iraq, but will increase its footprint in Afghanistan, President Bush said here Tuesday.

The president accepted the recommendations of military leaders to reduce U.S. troop levels in Iraq by 8,000 through January 2009. If security conditions continue to improve in the country, further reductions will be possible, Bush said at the National Defense University.

Bush also announced plans to deploy a Marine battalion to train Afghan National Army troops in November and to send an Army brigade to Afghanistan in January. The 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team had been scheduled to deploy to Iraq.

Bush said security progress in Iraq is responsible for the reduction. The progress is an outgrowth of the success of the surge, launched Jan. 10, 2007, that fed five U.S. Army brigades, a Marine Expeditionary Unit and two Marine battalions into Iraq through June 2007. Bush called the reductions the "return on success" strategy. That strategy calls for reducing American combat forces in Iraq as conditions on the ground continue to improve.

"The reduced levels of violence in Iraq have now been sustained for several months," Bush said. "While the progress in Iraq is still fragile and

reversible, [Army] Gen. [David H.] Petraeus and Ambassador [Ryan C.] Crocker report that there now appears to be a 'degree of durability' to the gains we have made.

"Over the next several months, we will bring home about 3,400 combat support forces – including aviation personnel, explosive ordnance teams, combat and construction engineers, military police and logistical support forces," Bush continued. "By November, we will bring home a Marine battalion that is now serving in Anbar province. And in February 2009, another Army combat brigade will come home.

"This amounts to about 8,000 additional American troops returning home without replacement," the president said. "And if the progress in Iraq continues to hold, Gen. Petraeus and our military leaders believe additional reductions will be possible in the first half of 2009."

An example of the progress occurred last week in Ramadi, when Marine forces turned over control of Anbar province to elected Iraqi leaders.

"Iraqi forces are now leading security operations across Anbar, with American troops in an overwatch role," Bush said. "With this transfer of responsibility, the people of Anbar took charge of their own security and their own destiny. It was a moment of pride for all Iraqis – and a moment of success in the war on terror."

In 2006, Anbar was the most dangerous place in Iraq. Al-Qaida terrorists were in control of almost

[see IRAQ page 3](#)

Sleeve tattoos a scarlet letter for some B-billets



Photo by Lance Cpl. T.M. Stewman

Recruiter Sgt. Paul Barron calls potential poolees Tuesday morning in the Yuma recruiting office. Marines with sleeve tattoos are no longer able to serve on recruiting duty or be a Marine Corps security guard.

Troops warned against businesses swiping IDs

Cpl. Michael R. Whitnel
Desert Warrior Staff

Service members are reminded to not allow companies to take, scan, swipe or photocopy their military IDs after nationwide businesses started requesting to swipe the IDs’ magnetic strip to give service members discounts.

Guidance from Marine Corps Installations West information awareness group released a memo Aug. 26, reminding service members to safe guard their common access cards.

Unless a person or company is working in an official government capacity, they have no reason to touch your ID card, said David Robbins, Marine Corps Installations West’s information assurance manager.

CACs physically display an owner’s personal identifiable information such as full name, full Social Security number and date of birth, but it also stores this information on the magnetic strip.

Additionally, the strip holds the owner’s finger prints, digital photo, flight line access and pay and benefits information.

Identity thieves with enough computer knowledge could read the information on the chip of a CAC or the magnetic strip, said Mel Visintainergrahm, station identification clerk.

“The magnetic strip on your CAC card is a key to the flight line,” said Staff Sgt. Bryant Lewis, station’s physical security staff noncommissioned officer in charge. “There is no reason any company needs to scan your CAC card.”

Last year, 672 CACs were reported as lost or stolen here, according to station ID records.

Most businesses will only ask to see a service member’s ID card as proof of service, and that is acceptable, said Robbins. Most businesses do not have malicious intent, but the risks are too high to allow someone to photocopy your CAC or to swipe its magnetic strip.

Lance Cpl. T.M. Stewman
Desert Warrior Staff

Marines that have sleeve tattoos are no longer able to become recruiters or Marine Corps security guards, the Corps announced Sept. 4.

According to Marine Administrative Message 494/08, even Marines that are grandfathered under last year’s new tattoo policy are not authorized to apply to be a recruiter or Marine security guard.

Recruiters and security guards have a significant impact on public perception because they very often interact with civilians, here and overseas, while performing their daily duties, stated the message.

Though Marines with sleeve tattoos are no longer able to apply to become recruiters or security guards, those who are currently serving in those billets are authorized only to continue serving the remainder of their assignment, unless tattoos are detrimental to the good of the Corps.

Current recruiters with sleeve tattoos who wish to become a career recruiter may not be favorably viewed, but their package will be sent to the deputy commandant for manpower and reserve affairs for final decision.

Marines with sleeve tattoos may continue to apply to serve as Marine combat

instructors, drill instructors and Marine Corps security forces guards.

The MarAdmin also reminds all Marines that excessive tattoos contrary to the Marine Corps professional demeanor and high standards could result in problems for re-enlistment and special duties. This includes tattoos that are, but not limited to, anything seen as sexist, racist, vulgar, anti-American, anti-social, gang-related, or in association of any extremist organizations.

On April 1, 2007, the Marine Corps announced the changes to the tattoo policy, which can be found in MarAdmin 198/07. The new policy prohibits sleeve tattoos or any tattoo that could be seen as a discredit to the Corps.

Any questionable tattoos for Marines applying for re-enlistment of a special-duty assignment will be reviewed by the deputy commandant for manpower and reserve affairs. The re-enlistment or special duty package must include a photograph or photographs, page 11 document grandfathering the tattoo, measurement of tattoo in inches, description of location and an explanation from the Marine’s commander stating the why tattoo is deemed questionable.

Commanders are also required to inform and educate their Marines on new policy guidelines and ensure tattoos are documented.

For more information about the Marine Corps tattoo policy, refer to MarAdmins 494/08 and 198/07.

Senior leaders required to report off-base criminal convictions

Lance Cpl. M. Daniel Sanchez
Desert Warrior Staff

Marine and Navy leaders convicted of violating off-base criminal laws above minor traffic violations must report it to their commanders by Saturday, according to a recent All Navy message.

The message, released Aug. 29, states that all active duty Department of the Navy officers and enlisted service members grades E-7 through E-9 shall submit the written reports within 15 days of the date of conviction, even if the sentence has not been imposed or the service member plans to appeal the decision.

Although reporting only applies to convictions that happened March 1 of this year or later, any conviction that happened between then and Aug. 29 must be submitted by Saturday.

AINav 067/08 was released in compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, which called for leaders from every service to report criminal convictions other than traffic violations that do not require a court appearance and for each military service to release branch-specific guidelines.

The reports must be submitted to either the service

member’s commanding officer or equivalent summary court martial convening authority.

Reservist leaders who have been activated can submit their reports 30 days after the conviction or at the first drill period following the conviction.

While no punitive action has been defined in the message for leaders who fail to submit the reports or service members who do not report their convictions, Marines and sailors can be charged under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice for failure to obey an order or regulation, said Capt. E. Hall, station judge advocate.

Also, Marines who sign documents stating that they don’t have any convictions are lying on official documents and can be charged for making false official statements, said Hall.

The message also calls on military commanders and law enforcement personnel to be watchful for service members who get in trouble in their areas of authority but don’t necessarily fall under their command.

If commanders know of a military member from other service branches that has been convicted, they should inform the member’s immediate commander or one of the offices listed in the message as the secondary point of contact.

For the complete list of contacts see AINav 067/08. More information and guidance on this instruction is scheduled to be released in the near future.

Chapel Call

“DOUBT IS A DEAL BREAKER”

Lt. j.g. Eric J. Cochrane
MWSS-371 Chaplain

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind, James 1:5-6.

Have you ever noticed that there are times when what a person professes does not quite match up with how they act?

Let’s clarify what I mean by my first statement.

I am not talking about Christians, or anyone of faith being a hypocrite, as some are very likely to think. I say that simply because

if our words not matching up with deeds was all it took to convict one of hypocrisy, then we all stand guilty.

What I am getting at has to do with how we handle adversity when it comes our way—and trust me, it will come. When James wrote his epistle, the church was in the midst of persecution of the worst sort, and his counsel was to “consider it pure joy” to face such trials, because it would lead to perseverance, and ultimately to true spiritual maturity.

James also counsels us to ask God for wisdom in dealing with those trials of life that we all must face. But there is a catch—when we ask God for wisdom, we must trust that God will do exactly as advertised, and give us what we seek. In this little transaction, doubt is a deal breaker.

If we doubt that God will do what he says he will do, we cast ourselves adrift and allow the wind and waves of the storms we find ourselves in to throw in every direction but where we should be going; to the safe haven that God offers.

But that begs the question, why do we doubt? There are a multitude of reasons that we may fail to take God at his word, but doubt is often stirred up when God either doesn’t answer our pleas in the way we think he should, or when we think he should.

And so, we doubt, because God does not operate according to our

plans or timetables.

James continues, in verses seven and eight, “That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” Why should we realistically expect that God will give us anything that we ask for if we doubt him? Let’s face it—God is not in the business of wasting blessings on those who doubt him. Why should he trust us with anything if we cannot extend the same courtesy to him?

Please, don’t misunderstand me. My intent is not to berate anyone for lack of faith. There is a truism that when a preacher points one finger at his audience, he has three pointing at himself. I too am guilty of such lapses.

Let me encourage each and every one who reads this: God gives generously, without finding fault, as James wrote. At the same time, though, we must realize that God gives us what we need, when we need it, not what we want. To not doubt is to trust that God acts for our good, even if we don’t see it at the time, and our double-mindedness only hinders it.

So, let us cast aside doubt, and let God be God, knowing that he will do what he has always done, and he will never disappoint us.

DESERT WARRIOR

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101 Days = 115 Deaths

Motorcycles biggest culprit in summer

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Five service members died in off-duty accidents during the Labor Day weekend, bringing to 115 the number killed this year during the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Labor Day marked the official end to the 101 Critical Days of Summer, the period between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day that typically sees a spike in vehicular and recreational accidents.

“It’s the time when more people get outside and enjoy off-duty activities and more people are traveling,” said John Seibert, the Defense Department’s assistant for safety, health and fire. “But unfortunately, it’s also a time when we see more accidents.”

The Navy and Marine Corps reported the first Labor Day weekend in five years with no off-duty fatalities, said April Phillips from the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, Va.

But the Army and Air Force weren’t so fortunate.

Four airmen died during the Labor Day weekend: one on a motorcycle, two in a hit-and-run incident and one from injuries suffered in a previous accident, said Jewell Hicks from the Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

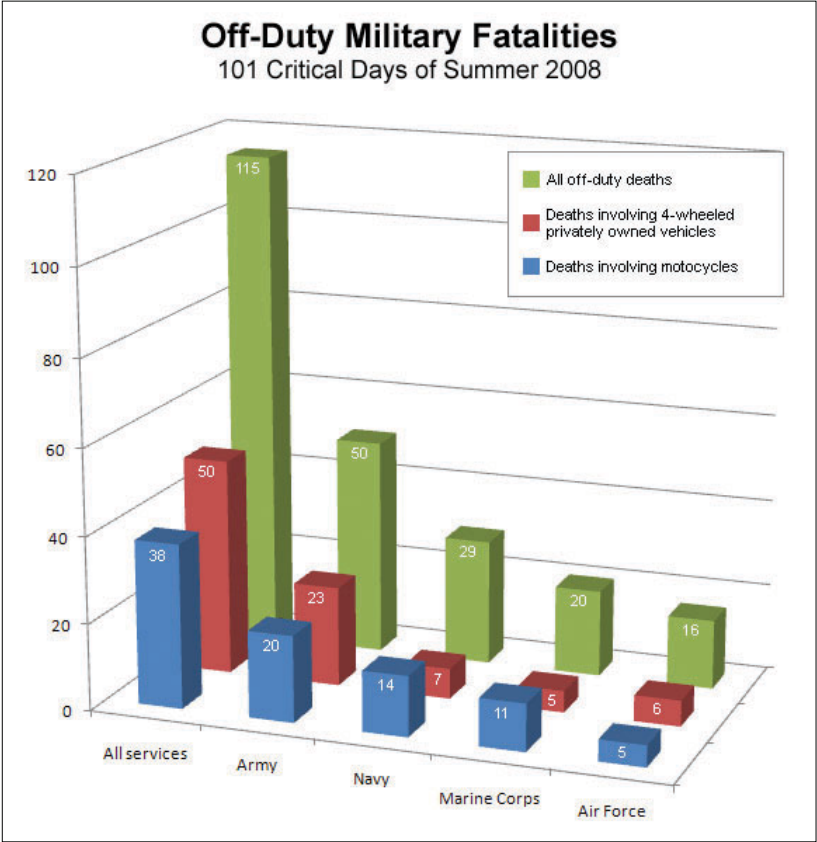
In addition, one soldier died in a privately owned vehicle during the weekend, reported Terri Helus from the Army’s Combat Readiness and Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Motor vehicles remained the No. 1 cause of off-duty military deaths throughout the 101 Critical Days of Summer, despite broad safety awareness efforts, officials reported.

Motorcycles were the biggest culprits, claiming 50 lives militarywide. Another 38 service members died this summer in cars, trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans, bringing to 88 the number killed in private motor accidents.

Last year, by comparison, 77 troops died in private motor accidents between the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

The Army reported 50 off-duty fatalities during the 101 Critical Days, with 43 of them involving privately owned vehicles, reported Helus. That’s a 48 percent increase since last summer.



Graphic by American Forces Press Service

Twenty of the private-vehicle fatalities involved motorcycles, up 18 percent from the same period last year, Helus said. But the bigger jump occurred in sedans, with 13 summer fatalities representing a 63 percent increase over the eight deaths in 2007.

The one positive statistic for the Army was a big drop in water-related fatalities. Three soldiers died this summer while swimming, fishing and boating, down from nine last year, Helus said.

In the Navy, seven of the 29 sailors who died in off-duty accidents since May 23 were involved in four-wheeled vehicle accidents, but 14 died on motorcycles, according to Naval Safety Center statistics.

The Marine Corps reported 20 off-duty losses since the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign launched. Five of the Marines died in four-wheeled vehicle accidents, and 11 were killed on motorcycles.

The Air Force reported 16 off-duty deaths since Memorial Day, three fewer than last year and far fewer than the past 10-year average of 24, said Jewell Hicks from the Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Of the 16 fatalities since Memorial Day, six involved automobiles, five involved motorcycles and four were related to sports and recreational accidents. Another airman was killed when the vehicle he was working on fell on him, Hicks reported.

Officials expressed hope that increased emphasis

on motorcycle safety will help bring down motorcycle fatalities in the future.

“If you took out the motorcycle numbers [from the Navy and Marine Corps fatalities], we had a really, really good summer, safetywise,” said Phillips. “We’re obviously making really good strides in terms of recreational and four-wheeled private vehicles. Now that we are hitting motorcycle safety hard, we hope to see that have an effect next year, and that the positive trend will follow suit.”

In addition to requiring motorcycle safety courses for all military riders, the services also are promoting specialized training for those who ride high-performance motorcycles.

Phillips expressed hope that the Motorcycle Safety Foundation’s Military Sport Bike Course, now mandatory for all sailors who ride sport bikes, will have an impact. She noted that 94 percent of the Navy’s motorcycle fatalities involved high-performance sports bikes.

The course also is being offered at a growing number of Army, Air Force and Marine Corps bases.

See page 6 for Yuma’s safety course calendar.

Stanford & Sunset



Photo by Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto

Sgt. Maj. Terry Stanford speaks to guests Friday after accepting his post as the air station's sergeant major at the relief and appointment ceremony Friday. Stanford took the senior-enlisted reigns from Sgt. Maj. Manuel Garibay Jr. Stanford comes from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269. Garibay, who enlisted in November 1974, retired during the ceremony.

UFC ... from page 1

Tanner’s motorcycle and additional provisions and water, at noon on Saturday.

“De Anza Rescue found Tanner’s tracks at Clapp Spring early Saturday, confirming that he reached the area,” said Keck. “We followed the trail until they lost it at the base of a mountain.”

SAR Marines picked up the trail late Saturday afternoon, before ending the day’s search at nightfall, said Keck.

De Anza Rescue and station SAR continued to search the area on Sunday.

Imperial County Sherriff’s Office called SAR Marines out again on Monday. Yuma Marines spotted Tanner’s body 1.2 miles away from his campsite at about 12:30 p.m., said Keck.

After the body was found, station SAR flew a coroner to the scene once he arrived from El Centro, Calif.

SAR Marines then airlifted the body to the nearby town of Palo Verde, Calif., where the body was released to the coroner.

The coroner determined the time of death to be between late Sept. 4 and Friday morning, and the cause of death to be heat exposure, said Green.

Station SAR receives approximately 30 calls for search and rescue operations per year, said Keck.

IRAQ ... from page 1

every major population center, and the province was a safe haven allowing the terror group to plan, train, re-fit and finance terror operations in other parts of the country.

“A military intelligence report concluded that the province was lost, and Anbar was held up as proof of America’s failure in Iraq,” Bush said.

But al-Qaida’s campaign of brutality and murder to intimidate the people backfired. The surge brought in 4,000 more Marines that proved the U.S. commitment to Iraq.

“Together, local tribes, Iraqi troops and American forces systematically dismantled al-Qaida control across the province,” Bush said.

Attacks in the province have dropped by more than 90 percent, and casualties are down dramatically. The government is up and running, and American provincial reconstruction teams are helping local leaders create jobs and economic opportunity, Bush said.

“As security has improved, reconciliation is taking place across the province,” he said. “Today, Anbar is no longer lost to al-Qaida. It has been reclaimed by the Iraqi people.”

The security progress in Anbar has been mirrored all over Iraq, with Iraqi security forces in the lead. Iraqi soldiers and police have cooperated and launched operations against extremist groups in Basra, Baghdad, Amarah, Mosul and Diyala province.

“All of these operations are Iraqi-led, with American forces playing a supporting role,” Bush said.

Violence in Iraq is down to its lowest point since the spring of 2004, and civilian deaths are down. Sectarian killings are down, suicide bombings are down, and normal life is returning to communities across the country, Bush said. The Iraqi government is making political progress and has passed several major pieces of legislation.

The progress has allowed the United States to



Photo by Sgt. Lukas Atwell

Brig. Gen. Randolph Alles, left, commanding general of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), and Capt. Mark Ferguson, pilot with Yuma’s Marine Attack Squadron 311, prepare to launch their aircraft from Al Asad air base in Iraq Aug. 21. President Bush announced Tuesday the United States would cut its troop strength in Iraq by 8,000 troops by January 2009.

pull out the surge units, reduce tour lengths for Army troops from 15 months to a year and shift forces once slated for duty in Iraq to Afghanistan, the president said.

The people of Afghanistan will benefit most from the security progress in Iraq, Bush said. The Taliban and its al-Qaida allies have regained strength and are using the tribal areas of Pakistan as safe havens. American troops who were scheduled to deploy to Iraq will deploy to Afghanistan beginning in November. This will make the “quiet surge” of NATO forces into Afghanistan a bit louder.

Additional troops have deployed to Afghanistan from the United Kingdom, France, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Australia, Germany, Denmark and the

Czech Republic. The United States increased its presence in Afghanistan by 3,500. The number of trained Afghan army and police forces has increased from less than 67,000 to nearly 144,000.

“These troop increases have made a difference, yet huge challenges in Afghanistan remain,” Bush said. “As we learned in Iraq, the best way to restore the confidence of the people is to restore basic security—and that requires more troops.”

More American units will deploy to Afghanistan in the coming months, the president said.

“In November, a Marine battalion that was scheduled to deploy to Iraq will instead deploy to Afghanistan,” Bush said. “It will be followed in January by an Army combat brigade. The mission of these forces

will be to work with Afghan forces to provide security for the Afghan people, protect Afghanistan’s infrastructure and democratic institutions and help ensure access to services like education and health care.”

Even as reinforcements arrive in Afghanistan, the United States and its allies will work to double the size of the Afghan National Army over the next five years, Bush said.

“The Taliban and al-Qaida will not be allowed to return to power,” Bush said.

Terrorists also are operating in Pakistan and must be dealt with, Bush said.

“These extremists are increasingly using Pakistan as a base from which to destabilize Afghanistan’s young democracy,” he said. “And in the past year, the Taliban, al-Qaida and other extremist groups operating in these remote regions have stepped up their attacks against the Pakistani government itself, hoping to stop that country’s democratic progress as well.”

Military progress is being made, the president said, but defeating the enemy will require victory in the ideological battle.

“We must show the people of the broader Middle East a better alternative to a life of violence and despair, and that alternative is freedom,” he said.

Much remains to be done, Bush said, and he acknowledged that tough times are ahead.

“Yet, we can have confidence in the outcome,” he said. “With faith in the power of freedom, we will transform nations that once harbored our enemies into strong and capable allies in the war on terror. With faith in the power of freedom, we will prove that the future of the Middle East belongs not to terror, but to liberty. And with faith in the power of freedom, we will leave behind a safer and more peaceful world for our children and grandchildren.”

A real page turner



Photo by Lance Cpl. T.M. Stewman

Sgt. Gregory Dillon, armorer with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, reads a story to local children during the 6th annual American Heroes Book Fair, held at Barnes and Noble in Yuma on Saturday. Dillon and other local heroes, including police officers and firefighters, read books to children and talked to them about the importance of reading. The book fair is held each year to get the children in the local community excited about reading.

SUMMER ... from page 1

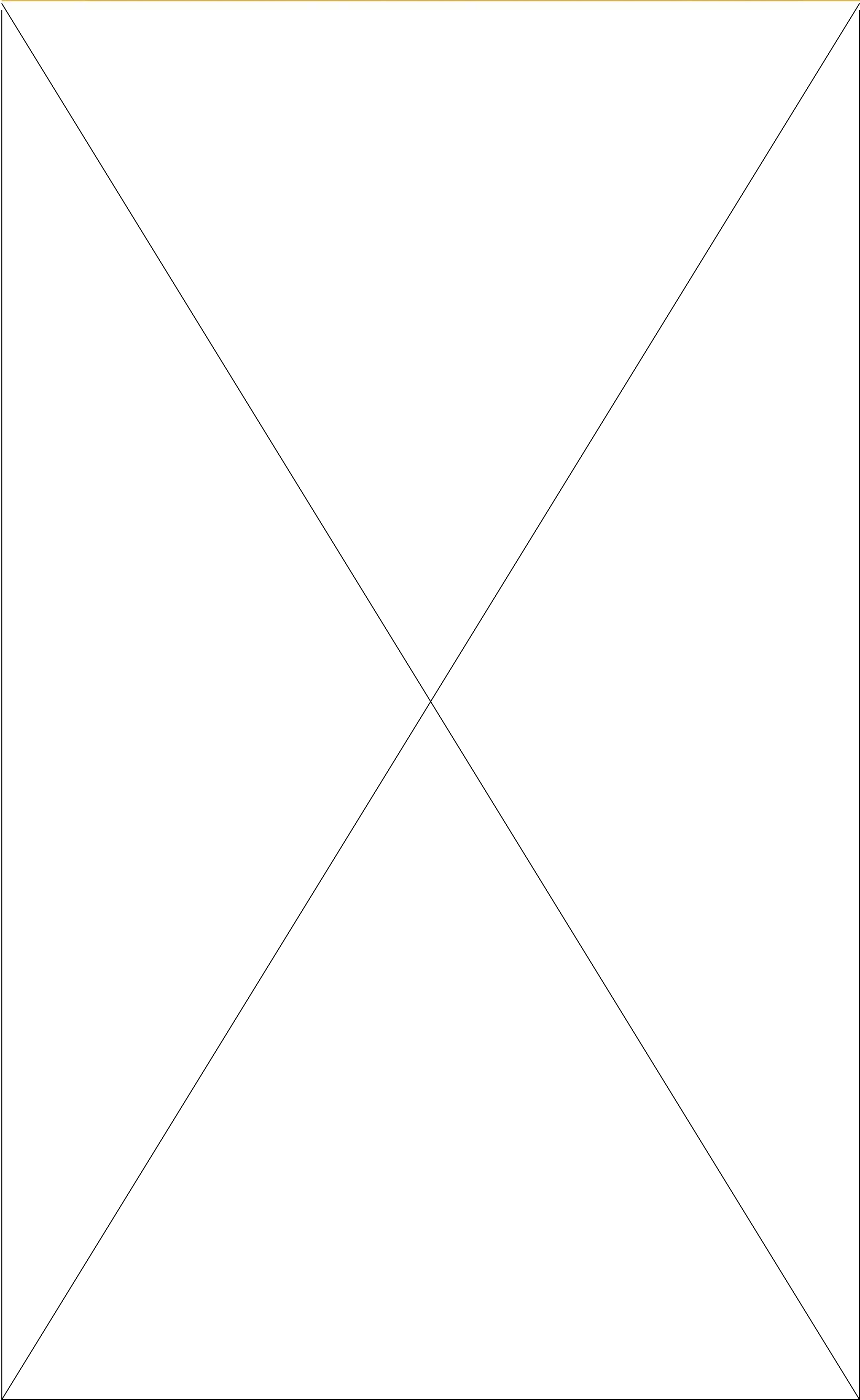
since 2005. Despite a fatality-free summer for Yuma, the amount of Marines reported injured while off-duty did increase slightly, from one in 2007 to two in 2008, said Chapa. The key to keeping up this kind of success in the future is to continue empowering the NCOs to take responsibility for their Marines and lead from the front with safety, said Chapa.

U.S. military concludes role in Georgia aid

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – With the off-loading of 17 tons of humanitarian supplies from the USS Mount Whitney over the weekend, the Defense Department’s part in providing relief to Georgia is over. The Mount Whitney—the flagship of the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean—delivered the supplies to the Georgian port of Poti over the weekend. The USS McFaul and Coast Guard Cutter Dallas had previously delivered supplies to the port of Batumi. DoD delivered 1,145 short tons of relief to Tbilisi via 62 air sorties since Russia invaded the Caucasus republic in early August. Russia also has recognized the breakaway Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and still maintains troops in Georgia. “Russia is still not in compliance with the cease-fire agreement,” Pentagon officials said. DoD personnel delivered only humanitarian supplies to Georgia. Service members delivered cots, tents, bedding, medical supplies, humanitarian daily rations, water and other relief supplies to help Georgia recover from the invasion. The message behind this aid was “that the United States was going to come to the aid of a close ally in this time of need,” said Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman. The end of the DoD humanitarian mission does not mean the U.S. government efforts end. “The [U.S. Agency for International Development] efforts will now continue as they look at what needs need to be fulfilled in the mid-term to longer term,” Whitman said. The next step for DoD personnel will be down the road when a security assessment team will go into the country to “take a look at what their needs might be with respect to that,” Whitman said. “It’s still premature to get in to any of that at this point.”





AT EASE

News to Use

College fair here in Sept.

Marine Corps Community Services will hold a free college fair at Infinities Monday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will host advisors from 16 participating colleges, including Arizona Western College, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, University of Phoenix and American Military University.

The fair will be open to anyone on base.

Colleges at the fair will include many that Marines here commonly enroll in using tuition assistance. For fiscal year 2008, more than 650 Marines here used tuition assistance to take college courses.

Tuition assistance is available for every school attending the event.

Each college is regionally or nationally accredited and offers degree programs ranging from associate's to master's degrees, with several also having certification programs.

In order to use tuition assistance, service members here must first take the College 101 course, which is offered every Monday at 11 a.m. in the station's education center.

Tuition assistance provides up to \$4,500 per fiscal year for qualified schools.

For more information, contact the education center at 928-269-3248.

Officer monitors to visit

The Manpower Management Officer Assignments branch is slated to make its annual visit to the air station Oct. 20-21.

The MMOA provides professional military education on personnel related issues, gives career counselings and assignment coordination with individual officers and holds discussions with senior leadership concerning staffing issues.

For more information, contact Capt. B.R. Carmichael at 703-784-9279 or see Marine Administrative Message 497/08.

PME opportunities open

The College of Continuing Education is offering seminar-style, grade-appropriate professional military education programs for qualified officers on the air station. Officers interested in taking the Expeditionary Warfare School Distance Education Program or Command and Staff College Distance Education Program can enroll through MarineNet at www.marinenet.usmc.mil.

Once enrolled, contact the Miramar Regional Coordinator at 858-577-1373 to get a seminar schedule and additional information. Academic year 2009 will begin on Sept. 29.

Safe & Smart Calendar

The following courses are offered by the station's safety department:

Alive at 25: required for all Marines 25 & under

- Oct. 2 (10 seats available)
- Nov. 13 (10 seats available)

Class begins at 8 a.m. in room 206, building 645.

Basic Motorcycle Riders Course

- Oct. 21-23 (7 seats available)
- Nov. 18-20 (8 seats available)

Class begins at 1 p.m. in room 206, building 645.

Experienced Motorcycle Riders Course

- Oct. 14 (8 seats available)
- Nov. 12 (8 seats available)

Class begins at 6:30 a.m. in the building 645 parking lot.

All-Terrain Vehicle Course

- Sept. 12 (8 seats available)
- Nov. 17 (8 seats available)

Class begins at 7 a.m. in the building 645 parking lot.

Dirt Bike Course

- available upon request

Class begins at 7 a.m. in the building 645 parking lot.

In order to register for any of the motorcycle, ATV or dirt bike courses classes, riders must have their motorcycle/ATV and PPE inspected by the safety department first.

Two trainer motorcycles and one ATV are available for riders without bikes. Riders must at least possess a learner's permit to operate a trainer vehicle.

To register for any of the safety courses or for more information, call 928-269-5699.

Course dates and seats current as of Tuesday.

In Theaters

Thursday

Space Chimps (G)
7 p.m.

Friday

Swing Vote (PG-13)
6 p.m.

X-Files: I Want to Believe (PG-13)
9 p.m.

Saturday

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13)
4 p.m.

Step Brothers (R)
7 p.m.

Sunday

Swing Vote (PG-13)
5 p.m.

Monday

The Dark Knight (PG-13)
7 p.m.

Tuesday

Step Brothers (R)
7 p.m.

Wednesday

Free admission

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13)
7 p.m.

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Call 928-269-2358 or visit
<http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/theater.htm>

Missed an issue of the Desert Warrior? Catch up at yuma.usmc.mil

Previous Issues

2008 Select month

Select month

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

MESS HALL MENU

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday

Breakfast—5:30-7:30 a.m.

Lunch—11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dinner—4-6 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday

Breakfast/Brunch—9 a.m. to noon

Dinner—3-5 p.m.

Midrats

Sunday-Thursday


11 p.m. to 12:45 a.m.

Prices

For military without meal cards

Breakfast—\$2.10

Lunch and dinner—\$3.85



THURSDAY

LUNCH: Italian Beef & Rice
Cream of Broccoli Soup
Turkey Monterey
Paprika Buttered Potatoes
Wax Beans
Peas

DINNER: Grilled Ham Steak
Beef Stroganoff
Buttered Egg Noodles
Au Gratin Potatoes
Squash & Carrots Medley
Green Beans

FRIDAY

LUNCH: Clam Chowder
Tater Tot Casserole
Parmesan Fish
Rice Pilaf
Glazed Carrots
Broccoli

DINNER: Cajun Roast Beef
Fried Chicken
Red Beans & Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Creamed-style Corn
Dinner Rolls

SATURDAY

BRUNCH: Eggs
Turkey Noodle Soup
Cold Cereals
Sausage Patties
Oven-fried Bacon
... and more

DINNER: Turkey Noodle Soup
Beef Lasagna
Caribbean Chicken Breast
Cilantro Rice
French-style Green Beans
Savory Summer Squash

SUNDAY

BRUNCH: Eggs
Grilled Ham Slices
Oven-fried Bacon
Pancakes / Waffles
Chicken Sandwich
... and more

DINNER: Bean w/ Bacon Soup
Teriyaki Beef Strips
Baked Stuffed Fish
Baked Macaroni & Cheese
Ginger Rice
Simmered Mixed Vegetables

MONDAY

LUNCH: Vegetable Soup
Chicken Cacciatore
Chicago-style,
Opened-faced Sandwich
Steamed Rice
Green Beans w/ Mushrooms

DINNER: Meat Loaf
Cuban Pork Lion
Mashed Potatoes
Orange Rice
Wax Beans
Simmered Carrots

TUESDAY

LUNCH: Turkey Noodle Soup
Veal Parmesan
Honey Lemon Chicken
Spaghetti
w/ Marinara Sauce
Long Grain & Wild Rice

DINNER: Country-style Steak
Greek Lemon Turkey Pasta
Mashed Potatoes
Black-eyed Peas
Simmered Mixed Potatoes
Garlic Bread

WEDNESDAY

LUNCH: Wild Turkey Chili
Kansas City BBQ Brisket
Southern-fried Catfish
Baked Macaroni & Cheese
Oven-browned Potatoes
Glazed Carrots

DINNER: Wild Turkey Chili
Yankee Pot Roast
Pork Teriyaki Stir Fry
Confetti Rice
Roast Potato Wedges
Green Beans

MCACS MARINE CORPS Community Services Yuma

Events www.mccsyuma.org

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS Day for Kids www.dayforkids.org

it's about time.

MCACS MARINE CORPS "Serving Those Who Serve"

Saturday Sept. 20th

Bring your family and join us for a day of fun on the parade deck! There will be a fun Kids Expo, Carnival and a FREE concert with MTV's "Making the Band" Jonessa Monique!

JONESSA

Save the Date: FREE Event The Biggest Family Event of the Year! Saturday September 20th 1700-2000 @ MCAS Yuma Parade Deck

mcas Youth Center marine corps community services

ARIZONA Adventures

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

ADS

Dos Rios’ 12 new rooms near completion

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard
Desert Warrior Staff

The Dos Rios Inn here expects to open 12 new rooms later this month after conducting the final walk-through to correct any remaining work on the rooms Aug. 28.

The two-building addition to the temporary lodging facility has been under construction since February 2006 and suffered delays when the original contractor for the project went bankrupt.

The new addition was needed to handle the increasing demand for lodging on the air station, said Eve Culverwell, Dos Rios manager. The inn’s current 36 rooms usually have between 93 to 100 percent occupancy.

“We have about 225 turn-aways a month, and that’s for the less busy months,” said Culverwell. “The new rooms are going to help that significantly.”

The project cost \$1,772,000, said Tef Sanphy, Marine Corps Community Services chief financial officer.

About \$120,000 of the budget was used to furnish the rooms, said Sanphy.

The Dos Rios primarily serves as temporary housing for families going through a permanent change of station, said Culverwell.

“All the rooms in the new addition have co-join capability to further meet the need for space for PCSing families,” said Culverwell. “Dos Rios has some of the largest rooms available for our guests.”

Rooms with one king-size bed cost \$49 per night and rooms with two queen-sized beds cost \$51 per night.

The new rooms feature a different color scheme and a slightly different bathroom and kitchen layout than the original rooms, said Culverwell.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Construction workers make the final touches on the two-building addition to the Dos Rios Inn here Sept. 4. The addition has been under construction since February 2006. Twelve rooms are slated to open for occupancy later this month.

CFT ... from page 1

Previously, Marines were permitted a higher body fat percentage as long as they earned a first-class score on their PFT.

Now physical fitness and appearance regulations are defined in two separate Marine Corps orders, MCO 6110.3 titled “Marine Corps Body Composition and Military Appearance Program” and MCO 6100.13 titled “Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program.”

The new orders sever the link between PFT scores and personal appearance, said Gen. James T. Conway, Marine Corps commandant, in a message to all Marines Aug. 11.

“Tendencies toward increased weight have become a dangerous trend over the last decade in out American society,” said Conway. “But Marines are different.”

In one order, Conway warned that failure to meet and enforce standards could not only jeopardize operational readiness, but “erode American confidence” in the Corps.

“Selective compliance with the Marine Corps orders on weight control is over,” the commandant said.

Previous standards defining maximum and minimum weight based on a Marine’s height still apply. However, those who fall outside

those standards must not exceed a certain percentage of body fat.

Men between 17-26 years old are allowed a maximum 18 percent body fat. Men 27-39 years old are allowed 19 percent. Men 40-45 years old are allowed 20 percent and those 46 years and older are allowed 21 percent.

Females 17-26 years old are allowed 26 percent body fat. Women 27-39 years old are allowed 27 percent. Women 40-45 years old are allowed 28 percent and those 46 years old and up are allowed 29 percent body fat.

Previously, Marines with a first-class PFT score could have an additional 4 percent of body fat.

Marines who failed to meet body composition standards where placed on a corrective program for at least six months. With the new order, the Corps will allow a grace period of up to 120 days after weighing in before formal action is taken.

The first 60 days are known as the notification period. During this time, the unit’s senior enlisted advisor for enlisted personnel or executive officer for officers will issue an informal letter of concern and a 60-day action plan. The actions during this stage are

determined by the individual unit.

If a Marine does not meet standards after the notification period, the 60-day cautionary period begins immediately. The unit will again be in charge of setting up a plan to assist the Marine in getting to regulation.

A letter of caution will inform the unsatisfactory Marine that if they do not comply with set standards they will be placed on a formal program following the 60-day cautionary period.

After 120 days, Marines who still do not meet the height/weight or body fat standards will immediately be assigned to the formal BCP by the unit’s commanding officer.

“Admittedly, decisions to assign Marines to the body composition and military appearance programs are difficult, and sometimes involve Marines who are otherwise solid performers,” said Conway. “It is, however, the right thing to do for the individual and the institution.”

Assignment to the program restricts promotion, prevents re-enlistment, results in adverse fitness reports and lower conduct marks, and could force the Marine to leave the Corps.

